



The Halifax Amateur Radio Club

REFLECTOR

PO BOX 8895
HALIFAX NS
B3K 5M5

June 2011, Volume 72 Number 6

club web site is www.halifax-arc.org



See You at Field Day



HARC Club Station phone number - 490-6421

Executive

President - Fraser MacDougal, VE1WO 865-4198 fmac@ns.sympatico.ca
First V.P. - Bill Elliott, VE1MR 865-8567 ve1mr@rac.ca
2nd V.P. - Rod Padmore, VE1BSK 443-7181 rodpadmore@ns.sympatico.ca
Secretary - Betty Caithness, VE1BSW 477-7081 betty.caithness@ns.sympatico.ca
Treasurer - John Goddwin, VE1CDD 865-5731 ve1cdd@rac.ca
Director-at-Large: - Sheldon Harling, VE1GPY hartling@netpathinc.com
Club Station Mgr. - Wayne Harasimovitch, VE1WPH 835-4865 wayneph@eastlink.ca
Past President - Bob Swinwood, VE1PQ bob_swinwood@hotmail.com

Committees/Offices/Prime Contacts

Government liaison - VACANT
QSL Bureau Mgr - Tom Caithness, VE1GTC 477-7081 tom.caithness@ns.sympatico.ca
EMO Coordinator - Dave George, VE1AJP 466-8723 dgeorge@dal.ca
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Basic ham course - Barry Diggins, VE1TRI 861-3719 ve1tri@rac.ca
2010 Flea market Chair - Tom Gaum, VE1BMJ445-8103 tgaum2@ns.sympatico.ca
Callbook Editor - Howard Dickson, VE1DHD, 823-2024 dhedickson@eastlink.ca
Field Day coordinator - Phil Bentley VE1PB pbently@hfx.eastlink.ca
Safety Officer - Terry Bigelow, VE1TRB ve1trb@eastlink.ca
NSARA Director - Barry Diggins, VE1TRI 861-3719 ve1tri@rac.ca
Honorary Legal Counsel - Paul Radford, VE1ARH

Non Club Contacts

RAC Atlantic Director - Everett Price, VO1DK vo1dk@rac.ca
RAC Section Manager - Jim Langille, VE1JBL (902) 667-1485 ve1jbl@eastlink.ca
RAC Assistant Director for HRM Scott Wood, VE1QD, 823-2761 ve1qd@rac.ca

The **June Meeting** of the Halifax Amateur Radio Club will take place Wednesday, June 15, 2011 at 1930 hours (7:30 PM) in the club rooms in the Saint Andrews Rec Ctr.

Our speaker this month will be Phil Bentley, VE1PB, on Field Day planning. This year we will be doing Field Day from the Club Station.

Guests are welcome.

Just a reminder that **Field Day** is **approaching** rapidly - June 24 setup and June 25-26 "live" from 1500hrs Sat. until 1500 hrs Sun. My name is Phil, VE1PB, HARC's co-ordinator for Field Day this year. I am presently looking for help to set up and take down equipment and also for operators for CW and Phone and PSK 31. All help will be appreciated. Thank you.

Phil VE1PB

Deadline for submissions to the September Reflector is Saturday, September 10, 2011

Take-15 Net Controllers

This will be the rotation. We would like at least 1 more.
If you want to join, let Bill Elliott, VE1MR, know.



June 12	Bob	VE1PQ	Aug. 7	Win	VE1WIN
June 19	Win	VE1WIN	Aug. 14	Erik	VE1JEH
June 26	Erik	VE1JEH	Aug. 21	David	VE1NN
July 3	David	VE1NN	Aug. 28	Doug	VE1LDL
July 10	Doug	VE1LDL	Sept. 4	Bruce	VE1MLW
July 17	Bruce	VE1MLW	Sept. 11	Emil	VE1ESP
July 24	Emil	VE1ESP	Sept. 18	Bob	VE1PQ
July 31	Bob	VE1PQ	Sept. 25	Win	VE1WIN

GENERAL INFORMATION



Sunday evenings:
TAKE-15 NET at 8:30 PM

CLUB REPEATERS:

VE1PSR/VHF - 147.270 MHz +
VE1PSR/UHF - 444.350 MHz +
VE1PSR/6M - 53.550 MHz -
access tone 151.4 Hz
VE1HNS - 146.940 MHz - TX=82.5
PACKET: VE1NSD 145.050 MHz
LAN NODE

Events for Your Calendar

June 25-26, 2011 - the 2011 ARRL Field Day.

July 8 – PENDING CONFIRMATION – Come help celebrate the birthday of the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic. The H.A.R.C. will be present for the party and have an HF and a VHF station. Please support your club and the Museum by pitching in. All help welcome!
Contact John VE1CDD

July & August – Pizza Nights

July– **MS Bike Tour**


Contact Rick Gardner, VE1RGG, to help with communications

Last full weekend in July – the Radio Society of Great Britain sponsored Islands On The Air (IOTA) contest.

August – Girl Guides Jamboree

For more info see page 4

August 5 & 6, - **8th Maritime DX Forum** – Registration is now open, For more information, check out the MDF page on the HARC website
www.halifax-arc.org

August 20 – Banquet in honour of Moncton Area Amateur Radio Club's 75th Anniversary. See  for Where, When, & RSVP details

0001 UTC Aug.20 to 2359 UTC Aug.21 – **International Lighthouse / Lightship Weekend** (held the 3rd full weekend in August)

For more information see

<http://www.lighthouse.fsnet.co.uk/events/intlighthouseaday.html>

September 22 – Registration for the Basic Amateur Radio Licence Course will be on Thursday, 22 September at the HARC station at 7 PM. First class will be on Sat 24 Sept at 10:00AM on Basic Fundamentals.

October – Greenwood Flea Market

October – Scouts' Jamboree On The Air

A rubber band pistol was confiscated from algebra class, because it was a weapon of math disruption.

2011 Brit Fader scholarship application forms are now available on the H.A.R.C. website.



A zipped application package (Criteria; Application Form; Reference Form) is available for downloading from the HARC website at www.Halifax-arc.org.

Follow the link to the Brit Fader Scholarship from the Home Page under Education.

Applicant must, hold an active Basic Class or higher grade of Canadian Amateur Radio license.

Application submissions must be postmarked no later than July 15, 2011

Banquet in honour of Moncton Area Amateur Radio Club 's 75th Anniversary.

You are invited to take part and show your support to the members past and present who have made a difference in Amateur Radio.

The banquet will be held at the Moncton Dart Club, 28 Eaton street, Moncton, NB at 5:30pm on Saturday August 20th. Cost is only \$14.00 each.

We will have a Very Special Guest Speaker and also door prizes.

To reserve seats for you and your guest or guests, *Please reply using this format*

MAARC 's 75th Anniversary Banquet, August 20th - 5:30pm

I want to participate : CALLSIGN and Name: _____

My guest will be : Name: ____

My other guest: ____

My other guest: ____

Email to Jean-Guy Levesque, Chairman MAARC 75th Anniversary, at Medals2@gmail.com

Please reply asap. Thank You.

Hope you can be part of the fun
73's VE9LEV, Jean-Guy Levesque
Chairman MAARC 75th Anniversary
506-854-6634

The RAC Annual General Meeting (AGM) has been scheduled for

Date: Saturday, July 30, 2011

Time: 1:30 pm

Place: The **Annual General Meeting will be held in St. John's**, Newfoundland. The AGM is part of Hamfest NL 2011 which will be held at The Battery Hotel & Conference Center which is uniquely located on historic Signal Hill.

For the first time in RAC's history the AGM will be held in historic St. John's, Newfoundland and will be held in conjunction with Hamfest NL 2011 hosted by the Society of Newfoundland Radio Amateurs (SONRA).

All RAC members are encouraged to attend the Annual General Meeting.

Agenda items will include:

- * Report of the President
- * Review of the 2010 finances
- * Appointment of auditors for 2011
- * Question and Answer period

This is your opportunity to hear what your representatives have been doing over the past year, to raise questions, and to make suggestions about how RAC is managed and where it is going in the future.

The meeting will be attended by some of the members of the RAC Board of Directors and Executive and is open to all RAC members.

For more information on Hamfest NL 2011 please visit the SONRA website.

The Incoming QSL Bureau may have cards for you. If you want them, you must have a little money deposited with the Bureau to cover the cost of envelopes, labels, postage & handling; and of course your correct mailing address. Send to
the Brit Fader Memorial

QSL Bureau

P.O. Box 8895

Halifax, N.S. B3K 5M5

RAC's web site is **www.rac.ca**

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE JUNE 2011

The Club was disappointed to learn that we would not be able to take part in Museum Ships Weekend this Year. The Acadia was not available to us due to Staff Shortage and we were not able to Operate from the Museum due to prior Commitments.

Carol Wood VE1HAZ has agreed to take on the task of Membership and Reflector Distribution for the remainder of this year Thanks to Carol for this.

A Committee has been formed to work on The Executive Plan for the Club. (See notice printed in Reflector.) Bob VE1PQ and Gary VE1RGB have agreed to take on this Important Task and will provide a report to the Executive in the Fall.

Don't forget to mark Field Day, the weekend of June 25th and 26th on your Calendars.

Our Co-ordinator, Phill Bently, VE1PB, will be looking for volunteers to assist with this important Project at the June Club Meeting. This is one of the Focal Points of our Clubs Yearly Activities, remember that many hands make light work.

Plans are progressing well for the Guide Jamboree in August. John, VE1CDD will be requiring assistance for this week long event. Additional information will be forth coming as it becomes available.

Don't forget our Pizza Nights in July and August. This is a great time to get together for a Social Evening over the Summer.

As this will be the last Reflector published until September, I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a Great Summer.

Fraser Mac Dougall VE1WO

CLUB Historical Material

The Club has reached an Agreement with Halifax Regional Municipality regarding the Storage of Club Historical Material. They will catalogue and store these items for us but the material has to be sorted and a decision made on what we will provide to them.

The Club requires a Co-ordinator and a Committee to carry out this task . We do not have a time limit but we would like to start this project.

Please consider taking part in this Project. The Executive can be reached via e-mail at VE1FQ@rac.ca .

When tempted to fight fire with fire, remember that the Fire Department usually uses water.



HARC Strategic Planning Committee 2011 (Adhoc)

HARC has decided to develop a framework under which all future activities of the Club should be conducted. This sounds very ominous and formal... and it is, but it is nothing more than most of us do informally in our every day life. We know *who* we are, *where* we come from, *where* we are and *what* we want to do in the future. What guides us and what we continue to work on is...**A PLAN!**

The *Strategic* part of "The Plan" comes from asking the "W" questions. Some will be self-evident (or not) but necessary nonetheless: "*Why* does HARC exist?", "*What* does HARC hope to be in the future?", "*Who* belongs to HARC?" or "*What* are the responsibilities or terms of reference for those that will lead us?", etc.

These are difficult answers to obtain from a group as diverse as HARC. We have a long and proud history in Amateur Radio that we need to build on for the future. How we move forward will be determined by a *Strategic Plan* that includes such things as a *Vision* and *Mission Statement* for the Club, answers to the forgoing questions and identifying the values we wish to preserve and perpetuate into the future.

The goal of this effort is to develop a *Strategic Plan* to help current and future members achieve the goals for which HARC was formed. Nothing remains the same over time and this plan too will change and will need to be re-visited on a regular basis to ensure that the goals are still reasonable and achievable.

Gary (VE1RGB) and I (VE1PQ) have been selected to sit on a committee and begin the foundation of this effort for HARC. It is a far reaching & complex task and will require your input to keep us on the right track. From time to time we will ask for your input. PLEASE give it to us. Your feedback is valuable and important. It is "*your*" Club.

Some considerable work has previously been undertaken by *Murray MacDonald (VE1MMD)* concerning "Terms of Reference" for executive positions and committees. It is our intent to use this work as a beginning and reference for our efforts.

If you wish to be kept abreast of developments over the summer, please ensure that the membership committee has your current email address on file as we will be using this means to obtain rapid feedback from you.

Bob (VE1PQ) and Gary (VE1RGB)
ve1pq@rac.ca garybartlett@accesswave.ca

MS WALK HALIFAX 2011

Once again, HARC members provided support to MS Atlantic for the Halifax MS Walk, 29 May 2011. Our day started off at 0800 putting out route signs and helping set up tables, chairs, and banners in the Dalhousie Arena. At about 1130, our members went out and set up rest stops and installed 2 meter rigs in assigned vehicles as required. The walk was well under way by 1300 and was completed by 1600. Operating through the VE1PSR repeater, we maintained an Open Net using tactical call signs until completion.

Along with providing support to our client, this also provided an excellent opportunity for us to test our new rigs, and practice standard voice procedures in a slow pace operation. We were fortunate enough to have 2 of our new hams join us this time.

Carol VE1HAZ, under the watchful eye of Win VE1WIN, was able to discover just how capable a ham operator she really is by providing communications from Rest Stop 1. At the end she told me this operation gave her enough confidence to attempt a net some time soon. Well done Carol!

Mike VE1HMY, maintained control over the parking lot. Here, he ensured only volunteers, MS staff and other support organizations gained access in his control area. He maintained communications with me during the entire time, and ensured any concerns were quickly passed when required. Great job Mike!

Along with those mentioned above, Peter, VE1PJW, and Amanda were assigned Rest Stop 2, Doug, VE1LDL, was assigned First Aid 1, Tom, VE1GTC, First Aid 2, and Dave, VE1DDC, a Support Vehicle which was used to position flaggers and track the movement of the participants.

All in all, the day was a complete success, with no rain, no injuries, and we all had a great time interacting with other volunteers, participants and promoting the Halifax Amateur Radio Club.

Terry, VE1TRB,
MS Walk 2011
Communications Coordinator

**Camp Nedooae**

The Girl Guides of Nova Scotia will be celebrating their **100th Anniversary of Guiding in Nova Scotia** this year. To celebrate, they are holding a Jamboree at Camp Nedooae, located on Brown Lake, near Elderbank in the Musquodoboit Valley. This is a beautiful location with large open area and wooded lands.

The Jamboree runs from August 12-20, 2011.

HARC has been invited to help celebrate by setting up a Radio Amateur station at the Jamboree site. Current plans are to have two HF operating positions and a VHF position, with three HF antennas and one VHF antenna operating from 40m to 10m and VHF. The station will operate using a variety of modes, allowing the youth to experience many different aspects of amateur radio.

This is an excellent opportunity to showcase our hobby and teach both youth and adults what Amateur Radio is all about. The organizers are expecting over 600 Guides from Canada, United States and Europe plus their leaders.

This event will only be a success if we have a good number of operators turning out to help. We need amateurs who are willing to give a little of their time to ensure the campers have a very enjoyable week. This camp will be a major highlight of their young adult lives. Whether you can commit a week or an hour, if you can spare some time to help, I am sure the guides would be very appreciative.

Remember our young people are our future!

Please contact John VE1CDD for more information or to add you name to the list of volunteers.

"HAM NATION" LAUNCHED...Item courtesy of Ken, VY2RU

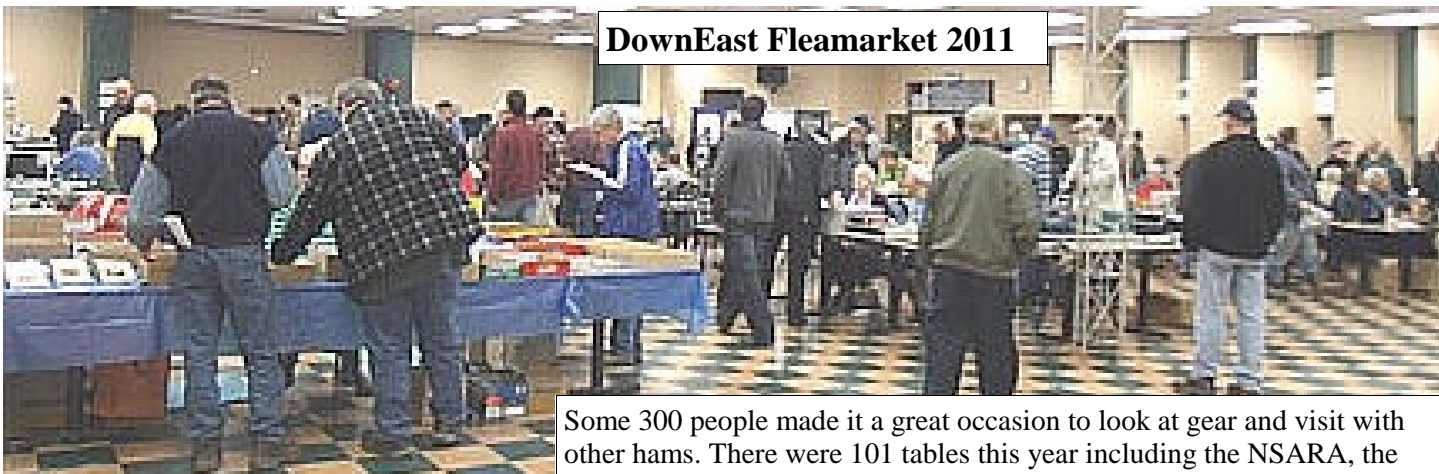
Bob Heil, K9EID, launches "Ham Nation" podcast on TWIT Network:
<http://twit.tv/hn1>

In cooperation with Leo Laporte of the TWIT (This Week in Tech) Network, Bob Heil, K9EID, has launched a new weekly audio/video podcast centered around ham radio. His first guests were Joe Walsh, WB6ACU, and Dave Jennings, WJ6W. Check it and many other fine technology related shows at: <http://twit.tv/hn1>

Dan....VR2HF / K7DAN

When the chips are down, the buffalo is empty.

DownEast Fleamarket 2011



Some 300 people made it a great occasion to look at gear and visit with other hams. There were 101 tables this year including the NSARA, the QSL Bureau, RAC, ICOM and lots of "sellers". Many people left with smiles and purchases in hand.



Photos
by John,
VE1WZ
& Bob,
VE1PQ

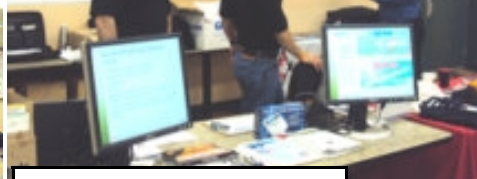


Carol, VE1HAZ has been helping Tom, VE1GTC, with QSL Bureau chores almost as long as she has had her license

ICOM rep Murray Lycan, VA1CQ presenting the major door prize, an ICOM Radio won by VE1CKR (accepted by his wife). Some of the other winners were: ve1uh; ve1qx; ve1qt; ve1js; ve1jfg; ve1vck; ve1ls; ve9rws; ve1mcr



RAC and
ARES display



"I would also like to acknowledge and thank Dave Nimmo, VE1NN; Bob Pettipaw, VE1RHP, and Graham Oldreive, VE1GCO.

Thanks!"

Tom Guam, VE1BMJ



**The Halifax Amateur Radio Club
Monthly General Meeting
May 18, 2011
MINUTES**

President Fraser MacDougall (VE1WO) opened the meeting at 7:32 p.m.

Silent Keys – Cliff Stewart – VE1GR – Charlottetown, PEI

Approval of Agenda

Motion – THAT the agenda be adopted with an addition.

Moved by: David Musgrave (VE1EDA); Seconded by: Jim Flow-ers (VE1JIM).

Motion carried.

Introduction of guests –

Chuck Kelly – Speaker for the evening and new club member (W9MDO)
George Fanjoy (VE3PEB)

Approval of Minutes of April 20, 2011 monthly meeting.

Motion – THAT the minutes of the April 20, 2011 monthly meeting of the Halifax Amateur Radio Club as published in the May, 2011 edition of the *Reflector* be approved.

Moved by: Tom Caithness (VE1GTC); Seconded by: Murray Alary (VE1ALS).

Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report

John Goodwin (VE1CDD) reported that the opening balance was \$9,175.36, expenses for the month of April were \$534.90, income was \$139.60, outstanding cheques \$1,594.95, which results in a closing bank account balance of \$8,503.28. Full report is attached.

Motion – THAT the report of the treasurer be approved.

Moved by: John Goodwin (VE1CDD); Seconded by: Win Hartlin (VE1WIN).

Motion carried.

Executive Reports:

1st Vice President – Bill Elliott (VE1MR) presented and explained an offer made by ICOM Canada. Bill pointed out that the club had a D-STAR radio in the club station for 3 months to try it out but it did not work well. Also, the offer demanded

that at least 10 members of the club be willing to purchase these very expensive radios. After a discussion of the pros and cons, the club has decided to decline this offer.

2nd Vice President – Rod Padmore (VE1BSK) was absent. However the door prize for this meeting will be a socket set. Entertainment for the next general meeting will be Field Day preparations.

Station Manager – No report

President – No report.

Presentation by George Fanjoy (VE3PEB) – George is associated with CNIB and is looking for an amateur to assist interested visually impaired people to prepare to get their licenses. There are existing materials prepared especially for study by the visually impaired which were prepared in 2004. These materials are up to date except for the mention that CW is required to achieve the basic license which is no longer the case. George mentioned that if someone takes this on that they might work one on one with a blind person or could put together small classes of five or less to study together. George answered some questions from club members. Anyone interested should let George know. (Brochure included with the minutes)

Committee Reports:

Membership – Report given by Frank Wilson (VE1FHW) (copy of his report is attached). The club has 89 fully paid up members for 2011 as well as 16 associate members and 4 lifetime members.

Basic Course – Barry Diggins (VE1TRI) reported that a new basic course will begin on September 22. He needs some “hosts” to help out by opening up the club before students arrive, welcoming students as they arrive, etc. Let Barry or an executive member know if you know of anyone who wants to take the course.

EMO – David George (VE1AJP) reported that weather events, etc. can be reported on 147.270. David Musgrave (VE1EDA) reported that a nuclear incident exercise was held recently and that we provided our trailer and communications. The event was very successful. David also reported that several club members took part in Police Week. The EMO trailer was part of the EMO display. There were displays from many entities including police, RCMP, and Search and Rescue.

Search and Rescue – David George (VE1AJP) reported on a search at Crystal Crescent beach for a lost cyclist. GPS tracker radios were used in this search which allowed about 85% coverage. However, some lessons were learned during this search. If 25 radios were used, the computer system crashed repeatedly. If 12 were used, things worked more smoothly. The system needs some tweaking.

Call Book – No report.

Field Day – No report. Fraser MacDougall (VE1WO) to call Phil Bentley (VE1PB) to see how things are progressing.

Flea Market – Tom Gaum (VE1BMJ) reported that the flea market was busier than last year. There were 100 tables with more private vendors than commercial this year. Registration amounted to \$1,150 and there were 287 paid participants. There are pictures in this month's Reflector and on the website. Each club received back their \$300 investment plus \$210.

Old Business:

Scott Wood (VE1QD) reported on the 2011 DX Forum to be held on August 5 and 6, 2011. Scott showed a brochure that has been produced and paid for by an anonymous donor (copy included with the minutes). Scott wanted members to take a bro-

(Continued on page 7)

I wish Google Maps had an "Avoid Ghetto" routing option.

(Continued from page 6)

chure but to pass it on to a friend if that member is not attending the DX Forum. Chuck Kelly (W9MDO) from Nautel is helping with a webinar version of the brochure for people outside the area. ICOM is donating an IC17 HF radio as a door prize along with remote control software. Scott asks that HARC members please promote the DX Forum.

Fraser MacDougall (VE1WO) read a Mission Statement and a Vision Statement for HARC prepared by the Executive. These documents will be printed in the next Reflector as a Notice of Motion and will be voted on at the June meeting. The documents will also be posted on the website. (Copy of these documents are attached to these minutes) Fraser also reported that the Executive has decided that we need a committee to take the approved Mission and Vision Statements and apply them to the preparation of the terms of reference for the various offices, committees and committee chairs. This will be brought up at the June general meeting.

Fraser MacDougall (VE1WO) also reported that the Executive has decided that we need a committee to go through the HARC archival materials, including club history, minutes of annual meetings, annual financial reports, clippings and photographs and decide what items will be sent to HRM storage. This will be discussed at the June general meeting as well.

New Business:

Fraser MacDougall (VE1WO) reported that Frank and Carol Wilson (VE1FHW and VE1CBW) will be moving back to California in a couple of months. We will be looking for someone to take this over the Membership and Reflector Distribution Committee in September. Fraser reported that he has spoken to a couple of possible candidates but has no firm commitment yet.

John Goodwin (VE1CDD) reported that Museum Ship Weekend will take place on June 4 and 5. We will be on

the Acadia behind the Maritime Museum at the Halifax Waterfront in one of the mess rooms. John explained that this is an around-the-world event which will start at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday and Sunday and carry on on both days until early evening. Discussion. There is no schedule of operators but, if you want a particular time, please let John know. Our trailer will be on site and will be locked up in the Museum's compound on Saturday night.

John Goodwin (VE1CDD) also reported on the Nova Scotia Girl Guide Jamboree to be held on August 13 – 20, 2011 at Camp Nadooe in Elderbank in honour of their 100th anniversary. We will be setting up an amateur station including various modes of operation from August 14 to 19. Girls will be able to operate in ½ hour shifts throughout. HARC members who attend this event can stay overnight in a bunkhouse but must have a Personal Records Check by police or RCMP in order to do so. The cost of this is \$30-\$50 but the Girl Guides will pay for a few of these checks. John can give instructions on how to get to the camp. The Girl Guides will also feed HARC volunteers but volunteers need to bring their own cutlery, plate, glass and mug. There will be 775 girls from around the world attending this Jamboree and 200+ leaders. John will be applying for a special call sign for this event. We need operators and people to talk to the girls. Let John know if you are able to attend this event.

Fraser MacDougall (VE1WO) advised that anyone wishing to get hold of the executive can do so by e-mailing VE1FO@RAC.ca.

Wayne Catchpaugh (VE1WC) and Sam Semple (VE1YVN) would like HARC to assist in organizing some people to remove a tower and antenna from the home of Ann Doulle to be used or sold by the club at their discretion. Ann is 92 and will be going to her cottage mid-June

and would like to have this done before she goes.

50/50 Draw - \$22.25 was won by Sheldon Hartling (VE1GPY).

Door prize – a socket set was won by Fraser MacDougall (VE1WO)

There being no further business, on a motion by Doug LeBlanc (VE1LDL), the meeting was adjourned at 8:40pm

Social break followed by a presentation on FM transmitters by Chuck Kelly (W9MDO) from Nautel.

Respectfully submitted .
Betty Caithness – VE1BSW,
Secretary – May 18, 2011

The May-June 2011 issue of the Canadian Amateur magazine is RAC's Homebrew issue. It contains articles on a wide variety of homebrew topics and also the following:

- * Countdown to World Radio Conference 2012
- * Development of a Canadian Field Organization
- * Canada Day Contest Rules & Entry Form
- * RAC Annual General Meeting and Hamfest NL 2011-04-11
- * Performance of Hamstick Dipoles

Initial results from Italy's National Institute of Geophysics & Volcanism (INGV) show that the 8.9 magnitude earthquake that shook Japan March 11 shifted Earth's rotation by about 25 cm shortening each day by a millionth of a second. Last year NASA reported that an 8.8 magnitude earthquake that hit Chile shortened the day by 1.26 millionth of a second according to computer model calculations and shifted our globe's axis by an estimated 10 cm..

From the March 12 Montreal Gazette

You only need two tools in life - WD-40 and Duct Tape. If it doesn't move and should, use the WD-40. If it shouldn't move and does, use the duct tape.



From the Mail Bag



Hi Lynn:, We are still living in our trailer and will be for awhile. I received this email from Al Hart that may be of interest.

88, Spud VE1BC

Message -----From: "Al Hart"

Subject: **Nostalgia**

Hello there, OM You don't know me – but I sure do know your call!

I'm the son of the late Ron Hart, VE1MZ. My own calls are VE1VI and W8VR.. I'm living in Michigan.

I just stumbled across your HARC history, and I'm still teary-eyed from reading it. I'm 75 yrs old now, and grew up in Halifax during the years that my OM was so active in the HARC. In fact, I still have on my wall today, a parchment(?) certificate of life membership in HARC given to my OM when we left Halifax in September of 1948. It's signed by Oscar Sandoz and Ralph Pattison.

When reading your history, I saw the names and calls of many of Dad's buddies, who so often visited his (our) shack at 381 Oxford St. at the corner of Berlin St. I especially remember the oft-noted Art Crowell, who lived only a block or so away on Dublin St. and whose shack I passed daily while walking to and from Chebutco Rd. School. I also walked every day by Tommy Baker's house, also on Dublin St.

Brit was probably Dad's closest ham pal, and I remember at least one time being in his shack on the second floor at 125 Henry St. Brit had a rig in a 6' relay rack, I think I recall with a single 100TH triode final and a Hallicrafter receiver. I seem to remember him saying that it ran about 200 or 250 watts. He also had a 20m Yagi on a short wooden tower on the peak of his roof.

I didn't notice mention in your history, perhaps I just missed it, of the

HARC ladies auxiliary. I don't know who was involved other than my mother, VE1IV, and Evelyn Bligh, VE1OW (I think). I would periodically bicycle over to visit Bill's radio store on Quinpool Rd.

I remember John Roue, too. John was a naval officer during the war, and I remember he arranged for himself, Dad, and me, to tour a warship tied in the harbor. I don't remember how old I was, but I still remember walking through the ship holding Dad's hand, while he and John tried to explain to me how we could be actually be "under the water."

I got my own ticket in 1952 while we were on a visit to Halifax Dad arranged for an RI to examine me one-on-one on an upper floor of the Roy Bldg. in downtown Halifax, early on a Saturday morning. I wonder whether the RI might have been George Harris, but I don't know. I do know that after I stupidly allowed VE1VI to elapse, it was picked up by a Mr. Eric Redden. When I happened to read in QST that he had become a silent key, I resolved to try get the call back for myself. I had several conversations then with Mr. Harris, (I think) who was then in St. John, and I believe he quietly pulled a couple of strings to arrange it for me. I also saw to it that his secretary quietly received a dozen red roses, but that of course was no factor. J A nice lady, living near Saint John, and I still talk to her every year or so.

Anyway, OM, I hope this was not all too boring for you. It really touched me to read your history, and there isn't anybody I know with whom I can talk about it. The one exception is my cousin Mike Goldstein, and he visits me once or twice a year, so he's heard all my stories, and I his.

If there's anything still in my memory that may be of interest to you, do ask.

You might also take a look at some photos & some text on www.w8vr.org.

73 de Atlee S. Hart, VE1VI

HALIFAX, N.S. -- May 19, 2011 - Environment Canada's Canadian Hurricane Centre is encouraging Canadians to prepare for what is expected to be another active hurricane season.

"Several international hurricane authorities are predicting that this year will be an active hurricane season in the North Atlantic Ocean. Therefore we remind Canadians that it's time to start preparing for hurricane season," says Chris Fogarty, Program Supervisor for the Canadian Hurricane Centre. Each year on average one or two storms directly affect Canadian territory, with another two or three typically threatening our off-shore waters.

The United States' National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration predicts that the level of hurricane activity in the North Atlantic Ocean will again be above normal. Sea surface temperatures in the North Atlantic are still at record warm levels, indicating the region is still in a multi-decade period of high activity for hurricanes. It also seems unlikely that an El Niño will develop. El Niño is a warming of the tropical Pacific that produces wind patterns that squelch development of tropical storms in the Atlantic. The NOAA outlook, released today, predicts 12-18 named storms, 6-10 hurricanes, and 3-6 major hurricanes.

Environment Canada encourages Canadians to be ready for hurricane season, by preparing themselves and their property, and by following Environment Canada's hurricane bulletins on the internet at weatheroffice.gc.ca, on Weatheradio, or through local media. Important information on preparing for hurricanes can also be found at <http://www.getprepared.ca/>.

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The 2011 season will include changes to the existing suite of Canadian Hurricane Centre products to make hurricane information more accessible and even easier to use. For example storm track maps have been simplified and a new more concise, plain-language public bulletin has been created. The traditional technical bulletin will remain available for those who require the additional detailed technical information and meteorological discussion. We have also changed our software so that emergency planners can better access and use storm track information in their emergency preparedness activities.

Although many people have experienced first hand powerful reminders of the potential impacts of hurricanes, Fogarty cautions Canadians not to become complacent if they haven't been personally affected by a tropical cyclone. "The overall amount of hurricane activity predicted for the entire Atlantic is much less important than knowing how to prepare for the one storm that could affect you."

Hurricane season officially runs from June through November when the waters of the Atlantic are warm enough to produce a tropical cyclone, the general category of weather systems which include tropical depressions, tropical storms and hurricanes. Hurricanes typically start to become more of a concern in Canadian waters a bit later in the season; however, the Centre maintains a year-round vigil, monitoring the Atlantic Ocean for any tropical cyclone that may form and threaten Canada or its waters.

Thanks, James (Jim) Langille, VE1JBL, RAC Section Manager; Maritimes

Tropical storms become hurricanes when winds reach 74 miles per hour and become major hurricanes when winds increase to 111 miles per hour. An average season has 11 named storms, including six hurricanes with two becoming major hurricanes. Source: the ARRL Letter, May 26/11

Shaftesbury High School Balloon Project

RAC received an application from the Shaftesbury High School in Winnipeg looking seeking financial assistance from the RAC Foundation to purchase Amateur Radio study guides to be used in a course for students to get their Certificate of Proficiency. The Jan.-Feb. 2011 issue of TCA featured a Cover Story about this school and the balloon that they launched, tracked & recovered. This group is now moving on up and will be launching a balloon Sat later this year, with scientific experiments on it. They have a new batch of students and they need to get them licensed. You can follow this project from their website.

Derek Hay, VE4HAY – RAC Director, Midwest Region
(ve4hay@rac.ca)



A 'gimme' can best be defined as an agreement between two golfers ... neither of whom can putt very well.

EIGHTH MARITIME DX FORUM **Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada** **5 - 6 August 2011**

The Halifax Amateur Radio Club invites DXers, contesters and HF enthusiasts to the 2011 MDF. It starts **Friday, 5 August at 4:00 pm** with a happy hour, followed by a Pizza Dinner and an opportunity to pickup registration materials and socialize at a reception. The **MDF program on Saturday, 6 August** runs from 8:30 am - 4:45 pm, followed at 5:00 pm by a reception and the MDF **banquet**.

Our **speakers** include:

- John Devoldere, ON4UN, **Low Band DXing for the 21st. Century**
- Scott Johns, W3TX, **Practical Options for Operating a Remote Station**
- Reg Beck, VE7IG, **Islands On the Air: RSGB's Top Contest and Awards Program**
- George Nicholson, N4GRN/VE1GRN & Wes Lamboley, W3WL, **The Antarctic Islands: Still a Challenge for Amateur Radio**
- Wes Lamboley, W3WL, **Why do we do it?**

The MDF will be held at Mount St. Vincent University in Halifax, where inexpensive accommodations are also available. Here is a chance to combine a great ham radio event with a tourist visit to Canada's Maritime Provinces!

NEW OPTION! If you live outside Canada's Maritime Provinces and are unable to join us in Halifax, there now is an option to participate in the MDF via the web. Webinar participants can enjoy the program from their home for half the regular registration fee – and still ask questions!

Details about the program, sponsors, prizes, costs and accommodations as well as registration instructions are available on our website (www.halifax-arc.org/mdf). If you have questions, contact MDF Chair, K. Scott Wood, VE1QD at: ve1qd@rac.ca or (902) 823-2761.

Thousands of artifacts dating to between 13,200 and 15,500 years ago at an archaeological dig near Austin Texas have been uncovered by researchers. Finding the artifacts which include chipping debris from working stones and 56 tools such as blades, scrapers & choppers could push back the accepted earliest date of human presence in North America by as much as 2,500 years.

From the Ottawa Metro, March 28/11

VE1PSR repeater work June 3 and 4

An opportunity to have a work party at the VE1PSR repeater site came up fairly quickly. I did not have everything detailed but decided to make a start on changes and upgrades at the site. With only a few days notice I informed the executive of what I planned and sent an e-mail out to several people who had expressed an interest in helping out with repeater work. Knowing that the lead time was very short I also asked if any climbers might be available on Saturday in case we needed to identify which feed line went to which antenna. Friday afternoon John, VE1CDD, and I made a start. The overall plan was to replace the small cabinets the equipment was in with open racks and incorporating upgrades and minor repairs while doing so. John and I made a good start Friday afternoon and evening getting 2 racks into the building and cleaning out 2 equipment cabinets. Some changes I wanted to make were to replace some of the VHF repeater components and to add an 82.5 Hz. Tone to the transmit so people could use tone coded squelch to cut out intermod noise. We did get the VHF repeater installed in a rack and operational. During the relocation John may have found one of the causes of intermittent problems on the VHF repeater when we were hooking up the RF cables to the repeater. When John went to hand me the transmitter cable the end pulled off the connector at the duplexer - he had not pulled it; it just fell off. After repairing that we connected everything and found the repeater was only putting out 10 Watts, much less than it should. I had hastily loaded my tools and had missed a small tuning tool so could not completely tune the repeater receiver or exciter so was not sure if there was a problem with the power amplifier or just the tuning, the most we could get from the transmitter was 12 Watts. We knew the receiver was not quite completely tuned but was fairly good. I stayed a little longer than John on Friday evening installing a replacement UHF repeater and duplexer in the rack.

Saturday morning I gathered up a few more tools I would need as well as a replacement VHF power amplifier and headed into the site. I was met there by Terry, VE1TRB and Dave, VE1DDC. We discussed some of the work required and were joined by Tom, VE1GTC and a short time later by Tom, VE1TA. Wayne, VE1WPH dropped in for a short visit while we were starting work. Some of us removed gear while others cleaned, tidied cables and began arranging racks. We took a break near noon for lunch and afterwards got the racks secured in place. We then began to install equipment in the racks, arranging cables and hooking things up. Some had to leave in the middle of the afternoon and by late afternoon only Tom, VE1TA and I remained but all equipment was installed. Tom and I then double checked AC power wiring, DC power wiring, RF cabling and controller interfacing. We also tried to check that all radios were connected to the correct antennas and marked what we could positively identify. Then we did a final tuning on the VHF repeater and set up the new-to-us UHF repeater. We ran into a few snags but worked through them and as we were running out of time we packed up the tools and tidied up the area before finally leaving.

The equipment now resides in 3 open racks with lots of space for expansion and the final planned upgrades. These racks hold more equipment in less floor space and the equipment will be easier to work on. The cabling of all types is easier to trace out and will be much easier to maintain. Unfortunately we ran out of time and were not able to do much in the way of upgrades. We also did not take time to take pictures of the new installation, we will get some pictures later and will include some when I have more to report. I did not have any specific expectations starting out other than to get the equipment installed in the racks and operational. I am pleased that we got as much done as we did. Overall this work party was a great success and over 50 man hours was put into the effort.

Hopefully we will see if the VHF repeater is working better than it has the past few months and would also like people to check out the UHF repeater to see how it is working and the coverage it has. There are still a lot of things to be done before all the upgrades are completed and a final setting up and checking of all equipment will need to be done for completion of the job. Almost all of the heavy work is done and what remains is mostly things I can chip away at on my own or with another person or two assisting.

I would like to thank the group that helped out at the site. While we did not require any climbing both Dave, VE1DDC and Terry, VE1TRB helped immensely with the work being done. The Toms, VE1TA and VE1GTC also did a lot of work both installing the equipment and helping getting it operational. I would also like to thank those who gave us on air checks on both days.



Bill Elliott, VE1MR

Driving Safety Tip

Be sure brain is engaged before putting car into gear

The children of Israel wandered around the desert for 40 years; proving that even in Biblical times, men wouldn't ask for directions.



Do you have pictures, ideas, an interesting or funny radio-related story, an article or a question you would like to share via the HARC Reflector? Please send it/them to Lynn, VE1ENT, ve1ent@rac.ca